

HABITAT CONSERVATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A regular meeting of the Habitat Conservation Technical Committee (TC) was held in the conference room of the Washington County Administration Building, **July 14, 2016.**

Members present were:

Cameron Rognan, Chairman
John Kellam, Vice Chairman
Ann McLuckie
Nathan Brown
Kristen Comella

Washington County HCP
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Snow Canyon State Park (SCSP)

Absent and Excused was:

Marshall Topham

Local Biologist

Also present were:

Lacey McIntyre
Celeste Maloy
Kade Bringhurst
Kent Bylund
Jessica Mousley
Kayde Roberts
Kirk Willey

Washington County HCP Recorder
Washington County Attorney's Office
St. George City
Sentierre
Sentierre
Jones and Demille Engineering
Developer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cameron Rognan noted a quorum existed and called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. June 16, 2016

MOTION by John Kellam to approve the minutes.

Seconded by Ann McLuckie.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action on trail alignments at Sentierre

Kristen Comella gave an overview of the Sentierre trail alignment options (A, B, and C) that have been previously discussed at the TC meetings. Members of the committee went on a field trip to walk the area before today's meeting. Alignment A is no alternative, keeping the trails as they are with no option for a new trail. Option B is a shorter route that would take advantage of the public parking and the connection it would make to the new paved trail system. Option C is a longer route connecting to an existing trail. The committee discussed, in exchange for a new trail, removing the section of the trail from Tuacahn Drive over to Abbey Gale Park. The committee reviewed the options and discussed policy as well as alternative mitigation for the new trail. Kristen will calculate figures and come back next month with more information so a final decision can be made.

b. Kayenta and Red Hills Parkway debris basin update - Kayde Roberts

Kayde Roberts (Jones and Demille Engineering) presented exhibits 3-b-1 and 3-b-2 on behalf of both Ivins and St. George regarding storm drainage projects. The Kayenta project funds are federal funds obtained due to local flooding issues. The problem is the project has a time limit, and if it is not finished within the given timeline the federal funding could be withdrawn. Mr. Roberts then discussed the Pioneer Park watershed and debris basin project in St. George. The proposed location of the earth berm will be located outside of the tortoise reserve fence. Mr. Roberts will continue working with the appropriate parties to move the basin work forward.

c. Progress update on pending BLM access right of way – Kirk Willey

Kirk Willey returned to the TC to present an update regarding where he is in the process for his proposal to obtain a southern access road to a future development in Diamond Valley. The road would go through BLM, State Park, SITLA, and Reserve land. Mr. Willey passed out a map of the proposed southern access route (Exhibit 3-c-1) and updated the committee on where he is in the process of trying to get the access right of way granted. The committee comprehensively discussed the area, tortoise impacts, and mitigation. Ann is going to work out the MOG ratio and discuss that outcome with the committee members. Mr. Willey showed Exhibit 3-b-2 which is a map showing emergency response time and the necessity for the southern access road. One issue that was brought up was for Mr. Willey to ask for a variance from the County.

MOTION by Nathan Brown for Mr. Willey to formally address the county to seek a variance, and the TC will continue to consider the proposal further.

Seconded by Kristen Comella.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

d. Discussion of Snow Canyon road shoulder expansion project

Kristen reminded the committee of a previously discussed road shoulder expansion project in Snow Canyon State Park. Option 1 includes expanding the road shoulders four feet on either side. Option 2 is to have an 8 foot lane on the west side of the road. Unforeseen issues occurred with the existing parking lots at Lava Flow and Petrified Dunes, as those lots are too shallow. There is a proposal to move the Petrified Dunes parking lot out a bit farther and move the Lava Flow lot entirely. The committee discussed options and did not feel another field trip to the area was needed.

MOTION by Ann McLuckie to approve the proposed parking lot for the new locations for the Lava Flow and Petrified Dunes parking areas and remove the current overflow parking lot.

Seconded by John Kellam.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

e. Northern Corridor update

Cameron mentioned the county is in the process of putting together a meeting with appropriate representatives to discuss options for the Northern Corridor.

4. OTHER REPORTS FROM TC MEMBERS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Nathan updated the committee about the decision for the county to put together the Northern Corridor meeting. The HCAC discussed the issue and ultimately the county decided to put together a working group to look at any and all options for the Northern Corridor. The meeting will include representatives from different entities and interests.

b. John mentioned the HCAC voted in favor of the TC recommended Mill Creek well site on the east side of the road.

c. Ann questioned whether there has been any advancement with the tortoise signage at Pioneer Park. No advancement has been made as of this time.

5. NEXT MEETING DATES

a. **August 11, 2016**

6. ADJOURN

MOTION by Kristen Comella to adjourn.

Seconded by Nathan Brown.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.